

Times .10

Your Magazine of Choice

June 2003, Vol. 10 Number 9

Now is
The
Moment

Pg's 10 & 11



Fun

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Identity

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The Places To Know In Edmonton



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Your Magazine of Choice

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Our Coronation Ball

Here we go! The next three months will be the busiest of the year for

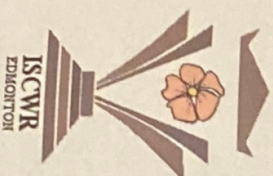
the ISCWR. We have 3 events planned so far for the month of June. The Pride kick-off show at The Roost on Friday June 13th, The Mr. & Mz. Gay Edmonton Pageant, Friday June 20th at Boots, and a Pre Canada day show on Friday June 27th at Prism (Secrets), as well as our Wingo Bingos on June 4th and 18th at Boots. We will also be holding a raffle for a hand made table cloth, generously made and donated by Ian Jefferies. Tickets will be available from Court members and at GLCCE. The draw will be held at the end of Pride week.



On May 10th, we were invited to take part in the Mr. Boots Leather Contest, which was also Empress Endora's 50th Birthday. The event put on by E.C.U.M., was a huge success. Congratulations to the new Mr. Boots Leather, Travis. Special thanks go out to Chuck, Myron, Dan and Mike, for helping to make Endora's Birthday a memorable one. (that is, if she can remember)

Once Pride week has come and gone, we will be putting all of our focus towards getting ready for our Coronation Ball, August 23rd. Detailed information will be in next month's column. Endora and I will also be attending Coronations in Winnipeg and Minneapolis before we step down.

Applications for The John M. Ker Memorial Scholarship will be available shortly at the bars, or online at <http://geocities.com/wildroseccourt>. Applications for the positions of Emperor & Empress 28 will be available at the beginning of July.



Happy Pride everyone!

We are currently looking for individuals to run for the positions of Mr. & Mz. Gay Edmonton. These are fun titles with no responsibilities attached to them, although the successful candidates are encouraged to work with the Court throughout the year. The positions are open to men and women, however you must dress according to the position you are

running for. If you are interested in running, or have any questions, please e-mail me at bobby27@gayedmonton.com.

HMISM, Emperor 27,
Bobby Bigonion

Mr. Leather at Boots - The Blue Room



TROY
By Michael Derry
#71 "TROY ON TOP"

IM TELLING YOU GUYS, JACK IS NOT STRAIGHT! THAT NIGHT HE CAME OVER TO RUN LINES, RIGID WASNT OUT THE DOOR TWENTY MINUTES AND HIS LEGS WENT RIGHT UP IN THE AIR. THIS GUY KNEW EXACTLY WHAT HE WAS DOING AND EXACTLY WHAT HE WANTED!



OH WHAT? JUST BECAUSE HES ALL LIKE BIG AND BUFF AND IM MORE... DENIED? PLEASE, THE BIGGER THEY ARE THE BIGGER BOTTOMS THEY ARE!



WAIT A MINUTE, GO BACK TO THAT LAST PAGE. DO YOU MEAN TO TELL US THAT YOU... AAAHHH... I CANT EVEN SAY IT! YOU... TOFFED HIM?



YEA, SO? YOUR TROUSERS TOFFED BIG, BUT OH STRAIGHT JACK??? IM SORRY, I JUST CANT NOT PICTURE IT!



IM SORRY, I M THINKING OF A TEEBEEZ AND A GERMAN SHEEP KID. NO BASH, THANK MOSES, A CHINUPHIA AND A GREAT DANE.



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UNITY

The Party that Defines Toronto PRIDE

By Ron Powell

Crowned with a golden headdress, her body painted a light blue, Sofonda took the stage at Unity 2002 clad in an East Indian-inspired ensemble to the enthusiastic applause of an audience of thousands. While a circuit diva sang "I'm rising above," the lights dimmed and, in a blast of light, Sofonda levitated above the stage and soared out over the crowd of gay men who had gathered for the largest circuit party of the

Toronto Pride weekend, Unity.

"The lights were flashing, but I could see people on the ground trying to reach out for me," the drag queen says a year later from her Toronto home. After both DJ Hex Hector and the gay party Web site thecircuitdog.com proclaimed it the best show they'd ever seen, Sofonda was named this year's director and choreographer of Unity. Since late March, she's been hard at work brainstorming ideas for Unity 2003.

"To top last year's flying Sofonda, we'll have to blast her out of a canon," jokes Michael Schwarz, one of the party's five directors, of Unity 2003. But with this year's theme,

"Water and Air," the possibilities are vast. The creative director, Jamie Crouch, has plans to construct a giant ice tunnel and that's just for the



her famous remixes of pop stars like Shakira and Madonna, Young was voted the best circuit DJ in the world by thecircuitdog.com.

party's entrance. Plus, Sofonda promises the quality of talent will be even higher this year, since word has gotten around Toronto's artistic

community that the Unity show is a high-profile gig. "Last year I was searching for dancers, but this year they're coming to me," she says.

Unity is one of seven parties that comprise the Unified Weekend. At Unity, 10,000 gay men from all over the world come together to party as one on a giant dance floor the size of a football field. The atmosphere is unique each year, complementing the theme. Past years have seen special environments like a tropical, misty rain forest or two motorcycles gunning inside a giant sphere.

While the show and the decor are reliable highlights, many of the men come to Unity for the music. This year's party features the talented DJ Tracy Young. Thanks to

Madonna herself was so taken by Tracy's style, she had Young DJ her wedding reception when she married Guy Richie.



Despite the glitz and glam, many of Unity's past attendees say it's the camaraderie they look forward to. Whether it's the spot where they meet up with old friends, meet new people, or both, Unity brings gay men together with one goal in mind: to be there for one wild party. Call Ticket Master, 416.870.8000 or visit www.unitytoronto.com

(Photos by Tribemagazine.com)



Pride



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Simplicity

By Joey Gierulski
Assistant Editor

Remember the time in your life when things were simple. No bills to pay, no planes to catch, and no place to go. Think of a caveman for example, his goal in life was only to survive. Not to make sure that he had a job, and enough money to make

sure the "cavekids" had all the toys and "nik-naks" that all the other "cavekids" had. His life was basic and simple, not easy, but simple. Much the same as when we were all infants. For some of us that form of simplicity left early in our lives. And for others the simplicity didn't really leave at all. This is usually associated with the growing up years. But not always, for some it usually comes later on in life.

When I was younger, I was told that there are two roads in life. I'm sure we have been told that, but how do we know which road to choose? Recently, I came to the fork in the road where I had to make a decision. A) To move out and start my own life,

or B) To live life as if I were still 8 years old. I chose 'A' of course, because I have seen too many people choose the other road, and I just sit and watch them stumble around on a path to that leads to nowhere.

Is there a point in life where you get the chance to say, "I want to go down the other path now, I have had enough of this one." In my opinion, yes, everyone has the right to make their own choice as to what they want to do with their life. The problem is usually how you go about doing it. Most people who make the bad decision of doing nothing with their lives tend to continue making wrong decisions. Constantly running away, always

hoping for something better. It always happens. For example, just the other day someone I know decided in a matter of seconds, "I'm moving to Calgary, I've had enough of this place, it sucks." And literally in a matter of seconds he was packing his bag, and off he went. Well, my best of wishes to him, because I have reason to believe that the problems he had here will just follow him to wherever he goes. But it's not just this one person, I just used him as an example. I've seen it many times in the past few years; another one bites the dust.

is something different for everyone, but in most cases it is usually the people in our life that influence us, and help us make the right decisions. We can't make all the decisions on our own; we need someone to help us wake up, because we don't always see the bigger picture. If we did make all our decisions without the help of others, we would be one lonely and boring go nowhere society.

When it all boils down at the end, there isn't really anything that's simple in life, just a whole bunch of small but complicated things that give us something to do. It's a good thing though, because it keeps us evolving and learning new things. So when you look back on your life in your old age, make sure you know that you chose the right path in life, the right path for you.

Celebrate
Pride
Week
2003

June 13
to
June 22

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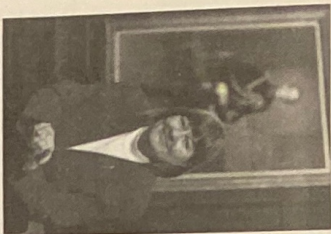
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The Front Page
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What is it exactly that puts us onto the 'right' path? It



A Long Way!

Laurie Blakeman, MLA

This is a good news column! As we celebrate Pride Week, it's important to commemorate how far we've come in this province. In particular, the Adult Interdependent Relations Act has parlayed into gains for gay and lesbian rights. This important piece of legislation became law in Alberta last November, in essence setting out the financial and property benefits and responsibilities for same-sex relationships.

the Local Elections Authority Act, the Meis Settlement Act, the Motor Vehicle Registration Act, the Municipal Government Act, the School Act, the School Trustees Amendment Act, and the Social Development Act. It will be proclaimed in the Changes of Name Act in January of 2004.

There are a couple of reasons for delaying these updates.

First, in the case of acts like the Conflicts of Interest Act, the Local Authorities Election, Meis Settlement and the School Act, these Acts deal with conflict of interest provisions or disclosure provisions. The government has said from the beginning that it won't make conflict provisions apply to people who have not bargained for them and because of this, the new legislation won't go into effect until after the subsequent elections. In the cases of the Motor Vehicle Act, it's simply a technology issue. Computers need to be updated in order to accommodate the changes outlined in the Interdependent Relations Act.

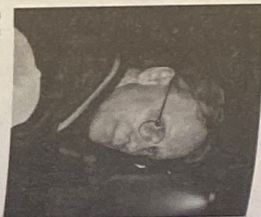
As for the Income Tax Amendment Act, because most of the income tax provisions must comply with federal definitions, the necessary changes have not been made. The federal definition regarding relationships is not as broad as the provincial one, and so this one could take some time.

So that's it, something to really celebrate during Pride week, the fact that in

Alberta, same sex relationships are being recognized for what they are, loving, caring commitments worthy of legislative protection. We sure have come a long way!

Have a great week and celebrate your diversity and your strength. It's a privilege to represent you in the Legislative Assembly.

If you have a particular issue and would like to be on an email list for me to send you copies of questions asked in Question Period, please send me your email address and let me know whether you are a constituent or where in Alberta you live. You can reach me at my new email address blakeman@laurieblakeman.com or call (780) 414-0743 or drop by #3, 9908-109 Street, Edmonton, AB. T5K 1H5.



Now is the Moment

By Dennis Cumby
Managing Editor

This, the month of June, is our month of Pride. It is more than just a celebration for the gay and lesbian community in Edmonton. We join with thousands of other cities worldwide to celebrate our diversity and our selves. The lesbian and gay movement is an inclusive group that has others, such as the bi-sexuals, transgendered and two spirited

people included. We also want to ensure that everyone else in our city that identifies themselves as being friendly to us is also welcome.

Did all of this just drop out of the sky with businesses, groups and societies suddenly appear as they are today? Not very likely, should have done any homework, as to where things began. A lot is said about the few written and badly translated phrases that appear in the Bible. Little is said about the persecutions that went on for nearly a century between 1400 and 1500 during the reformation of the church state at the time. Most people know something about the Nazi powers and what they did during the period from 1934-1945. It was during that time that the pink triangle for homosexual men and the black triangle for lesbians were born. Just as the Jews had to wear the yellow Star of David, homosexual men had to wear a pink triangle and the lesbians wore the black one. It meant that you could be tortured and then executed or beaten by anyone who wanted to do so. There is little recorded history except from some Jewish discussion groups that I participated in on the Internet, as to how many pink and black triangles were seen the concentration camps. Most, from what we know, did not make it that far as these two groups suddenly disappeared from the cities occupied by the Nazi Armies.

New freedoms began to arise in North America at the beginning of the 1970s shortly after a riot took place in New York City, commonly referred to as the Stonewall Riot. The riot in the streets of the village took place when the gay and lesbian communities living there decided that had enough harassment from the New York City Police.

It appears that around the same time the word homosexual was substituted with gay and was meant to be inclusive for lesbian women. The women's rights movement then splintered off from this and worked with words such as woman and womyn rather than be included in the word gay. We were still a long way from having any rights until Trudeau uttered the words, "...the state has no business in the bedrooms of the people..." It marked a drastic change in attitude in Canada towards gay men and lesbians. Pride Parades appeared in Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver but for most of the country that dream would wait many years.

We do not have to go back very far in Alberta to remember the Supreme Court case involving Delvin Friend. It was almost ten years ago and was also the first year that we published Times 10 Magazine. Quite a number of people put in thousands of hours of time and much needed money from all over Alberta. The current Provincial Government in Alberta spent millions of dollars and stalled for years before the case finally went before the Supreme Court of Canada. The last bastion of hatred fell and the government of Alberta was forced to apply some freedoms for us into law. It was the beginning of the road to equality for lesbians and gay men in this province and we still have a long way to go.

When I hear about some of the petty bickering going on around our city, it looks as though some have little or no understanding of what it has taken, and will take, to reach the same level of equality as Toronto. It takes a lot of working together rather than fighting with each other to take our city, and indeed our Province, to a higher level of understanding as to who we are and what equal rights means. As long as a low level fighting takes place in our own community, it is very unlikely that any further

steps will be taken to enhance our own lives. The right-wing backbenchers that rule our current government just need to sit back and relax while we go at each other over things that are undermining our daily lives.

It gets down to a very basic question. Are we asking for equality for gay men and lesbians or not? Are we including, or excluding, all of the other people that have grouped themselves in with us or not?

We at Times 10 Magazine have worked as volunteers for ten years now, and along the way, every kind of personality has been included. It was a decision made when it began in 1993 that we would go for quality articles rather than fluff. Along the way something happened, called the Internet, when we went online in 1995. All of the sudden articles were coming in from all over the world and we decided to keep people aware of what is going on in other countries as well. And to this day, we have not forgotten the number of gays that fell during the peak epidemic years of AIDS. Although it is still with us today, and will likely remain a worldwide epidemic, we will continue to inform you about the most current news regarding HIV/AIDS. Anyone who thinks we should not, and there are those who think that way, are fooling themselves.

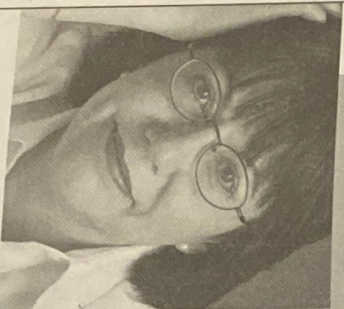
The editorial intention has been, and still is, to ensure that Times 10 Magazine is a voice for everyone in the Capital City region. The truth is easy to read; if you have some time, look over the almost 500 pages on our Website. All of the articles on the Website represent about twenty-five percent of everything that we have printed since 1993.

We are here to assist our community in its growth so that we can work together towards an equal footing with everyone. It is not an easy task to accomplish and now, ten years later, we realize just how far we have come and how much work remains. Our editorial policy has been one seeking equal rights

Celebrate your Pride during June in Edmonton, and remember, it did not fall out of the sky. People in our community put a lot into the planning and preparations for one week of activities.

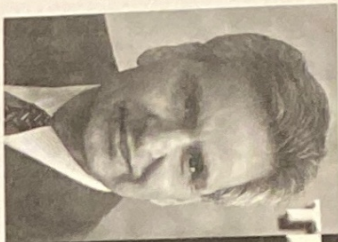
Do it because you are proud and not because you are angry. Remember to say thank you to the businesses that have sponsored you every step of the way by being supportive. When you finally combine it together, it is called a community. You see, Times 10 was conceived as a Not-for-Profit publication by the gay community, for the gay community and for being gay, we make no apologies, to any one.

Congratulations to everyone participating in Pride Week



Anne McLellan, M.P.
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Pride 2003**

Many hands make light Work

activities will be divided by the total number of pledged volunteer hours worked. Disbursement will be determined by the total number of volunteer hours pledged to each organization.

The remaining 25% will be allocated as follows:

Pride Week 2003: The Flame Within is about our community. It is a celebration of the unity and diversity of the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender community. The Edmonton Pride Week Society, community groups, businesses and other organizations have a shared responsibility to ensure the overall success of the capital region's Pride week. Volunteers from the various community organizations, as well as volunteers at large are required to make the week's events possible. A substantial number of volunteers are needed. But the community will benefit too. It was determined at the last EPWS General Meeting that all profits generated from Pride Week 2003 will be disbursed to the community based on the following formula:

Each volunteer can select the community organization his/her efforts will benefit. 75% of the net profit from the weeks

The more volunteer hours provided by, or on behalf of, your organization, the more you will benefit from this year's activities. We will try to include as many groups as possible but on a first come, first serve basis so get your friends and members committed and get your list in early.

Send your name or volunteer list to

E-mail:
pridevolunteers@gayedmonton.com
Fax: 424-6885

Bring your list to a Pride Meeting June 5 at the Garage (10244 106 St. @ 8 PM)



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Northern Chaps

Edmonton's original leather-fetish-uniform club

Black Solstice
MR. EDMONTON LEATHER CONTEST



The Quest Continues

June 14, 2003 at 8:00 pm
Hellenic-Canadian Community Hall
10450 116th Street, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

**Tickets \$15.00 (non-Chaps members)
\$10 (Chaps members) at:**

- Buddy's Nite Club - 11725B Jasper Ave (Saturday Nights 10pm - Midnight)
- Pride Video - 10121-124 St
- B&D Emporium - 9652 Jasper Ave
- Sugar Bowl & Illusion Computer Service - 10724-124 St

Northern Chaps Black Solstice Events

- June 13th • Meet-the-Meat at The Roost Nite Club, 9:00 pm
- June 14th • Black Solstice & Mr. Edmonton Leather 2003, 8:00 pm
After Party at Buddy's Nite Club (after Midnight)
- June 15th • Survivor's Brunch at The Garage, 11:00 am



Black Solstice



Speaking of

"Normal"

By Liz Massiah, MSW, RSW
Clinical Social Worker

A while back I wrote a column about the middle of love. Not the romantic, lustful beginning, not the heartbroken ending or the inevitable end that death brings, but the middle. The time when most of the big power issues are sorted out, and the couple is getting on with ordinary, humdrum life.

It seems to me that in many ways, we are in the middle of love phase in our freedom work as political lesbians and gay men.

Stonewall is past (remember June 27). The drag queens danced on the streets, confused the heck out of the cops and another phase of our liberation work began. It was intense, dramatic work, with high risks on many fronts. We were more vulnerable and at the same time, stronger. We were more demanding and at the same time, more honest. We started our case publicly and kept doing it. And doing it. We Canadians have been more successful than our counterparts in most countries, mostly by being clear, consistent and of course, polite.

On the streets of Toronto the fight was real. Going to the Camco club was a rite of passage, down a long flight of stairs, paying your money to one of the biggest, loudest, scariest looking dykes you could possibly imagine. She would tell you about the police raids, about being taken to the Beaches in Toronto and beaten with newspaper (less bruising), and about paying off the cops for tips on upcoming raids.

Yet these women persisted, with a network of other club owners. The Robin's Nest in Galt, Ontario, started in the 60's by three women, is still going strong. The club in Buffalo that was also run by women. These women would support one another through it all. Talk about the Divine Secrets of the Ya Ya Sisterhood, this was in many ways the lesbian equivalent. The stories, the adventures, the failures, the loyalty kept them going. These were the beginnings, the places where we learned we are just fine. Not freaks and not alone.

Then the legally focused work began. Briefs, presentations, court cases, on and on and on. I have boxes and boxes of minutes, copies and so forth in my den, as do many others. Without Delwin Vriend's willingness to go to court, who knows where we would be legally. Tom Warner's book, "Not going back" is a terrific read on our history.

But here we are, legal as all get out. Family health care, on the tax forms, we are so boring now. No one blinks when I refer to Anna, my spouse. Legal marriage is just around the corner. There was even an article about women who love women in *Homemaker's* magazine. It left a lot to be desired, but it was there.

So much for drama. The middle of love is like that, where the hard work has to happen. The gritty of relationship is the hard part. And the part where many relationships founder. Eyes and body parts start to wander, eyes to other folks, body parts to new and lower locations, no matter what we do. Where the real work of commitment happens.

And here in our lesbian and gay world, we are in the gritty of our work. We have sorted out most of the big stuff. Yet we still want and need our own sense of self, our own sense of safety and trust. Someone said to me that she feels "most lesbian" when she first walks into a women's dance. She sees all the other women who are there just to be with women. And no one has to pretend that there isn't anything sexual in the air.

Yet we know that it's not as simple as getting the legal rights or feeling great at a dance. Every week in my office we talk about the fear and the hatred people experience. Sometimes it's more the fear of the possibility of hatred than the actual experience of direct hatred.

Which is much like the concerns we sometimes have in the middle of loving relationships. What if I get tired of her, what if she finds me less sexy, those questions haunt us as our bellies budge, our hair grays and a late night is eleven p.m. Those of us who can talk through these fears, these bits of confusion and doubt will usually find ways to make the relationship stronger. Despite the sagging parts, the hot flashes and the other changes of aging. We have to learn to celebrate what we have; then we can be contentedly in the middle of love.

Our community is grappling with this, I think. How do we have our community, have our rights, function without the drama? This shows up in comments about the old folks not giving way to the younger ones, in another paper trying to get going. In some ways this is healthy, trying to ask the hard questions, looking for worthwhile answers. How can we be more resourceful in meeting our needs and yet knowing we are not as full of energy as we used to be. That the needs have changed and we can still be passionate about them, whether sexual or political.

We get caught in the loop of the reality that coming out is still tough, that we still have a high adolescent suicide rate, that being a lesbian and a psychotherapist is still something worth discussion. When those things are humdrum, then we will be past the middle of love, past the middle of our work. We aren't there yet. In today's email comes a copy of a letter from some Christians asking for prayers to prevent the passage of the hate laws to the country. "To end the scourge on the country". They don't clearly say what the scourge is - they seem to be suggesting it's Svend Robinson, but it could be the bill, or just we many homos. In any case, the letter proves the point of the hate bill very nicely, so we should say thanks to the authors.

When those things don't happen, I think. How do we have our community, have our rights, function without the drama? This shows up in comments about the old folks not giving way to the younger ones, in another paper trying to get going. In some ways this is healthy, trying to ask the hard questions, looking for worthwhile answers. How can we be more resourceful in meeting our needs and yet knowing we are not as full of energy as we used to be. That the needs have changed and we can still be passionate about them, whether sexual or political.

There will always be political work to be done but through the chance taking, the hard work, the vulnerability that a good intimate relationship demands, it will happen. So, once again, Happy Pride. And thanks for taking the chances, doing the hard work that created this phase of our liberation. And thanks, Dennis for ten years of Times 10. It's not perfect, I would do it differently, but you kept it going, with binder twice and duct tape, but it's still here. And if others want another paper, great, there is room for us all in the middle of this loving, liberating time.

Opinions expressed are those of the author alone. They are not meant to replace consultation with a qualified, accountable psychotherapist. All client related information is altered to protect privacy. Questions, comments are most welcome.

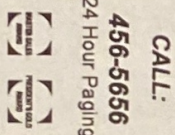
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W O M E N S P A C E

presents

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GLCE

Curling With Pride

Burn up the dance floor with your flame within and cool off with our Beer Bucket Buddies! Avoid the bar line-ups with these mobile volunteers and their buckets of ice cold, fast beer!

50/50 draw!

door prizes!

Only 400 tickets will be sold. Get them in advance at:

Audrey's Books
B&D Emporium
GLCE

Pride Video

Earth's General Store



mixed pride dance

Saturday, June, 14, 2003

9 pm to 2 am

alberta avenue hall

9210 - 118 avenue

guest dj - Icarish Whip

midnight buffet provided by Aqua Monqua Catering

Edmonton Pride Week 2003 Events

June 13 - 22: Art Exhibit "Strange Fruit" - The Roost - nightly 8 PM - 1 AM

June 13 - 22 Pride Video Annual Pride Week Sale Discounts on Pride Merchandise, toys, lubricants, etc.

Friday June 13

1. Northern Chaps presents Black Solstice & Mr. Edmonton Leather: Meet-the-Meat - The Roost. 9 PM Show - The Roost.
2. ISCW R Flame Within Show - The Roost.
3. A Unique Lesbian Life Benefit Dinner at Prism 10249 - 107 St. 7 - 9 PM featuring Marsha Stevens Tickets \$30
4. Pride Patio BBQ - The Roost

Saturday June 14

1. Northern Chaps presents Black Solstice & the Mr. Edmonton Leather Contest: Hellenic Hall - Doors open 8 PM, contest at 9 PM
2. Black Solstice & Mr. Edmonton Leather: After Party - Buddy's, midnight
3. Marsha Stevens Concert "A Proud Faith" at Knox Met United 8307 - 109 St. 7 PM The concert is free (a love offering will be collected)
4. Womospace Flaming Ice Pride Dance 9210 - 118 Ave 9pm - 2 AM Alberta

Avenue Hall Co-Sponsored with: EVM - GLCCE - Curling with Pride

5. Down Under Welcomes Black Solstice for an After-After Party 25% off with Black Solstice Tickets
6. Rainbow Community Health Forum 2 Sponsored by GLCCE, HIV Edmonton and The Edmonton Public Library. (Free Attendance), 10:00am to 4:00 PM. Edmonton Public Library - Stanley A. Milner Library - 7 Sir Winston Churchill Square, Edmonton. In meeting room #7 located on the 6th floor, in the spirit of Pride Week, this forum will provide an upbeat venue to learn, discuss & contribute to health related issues within Edmonton's diverse Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered and Two-spirited communities. For more information or to register please call Erin at GLCCE (488-3234) or Jason at HIV Edmonton (488-5742).
7. Pride Party: Get in free with Black Solstice or Womospace tickets - The Roost

Sunday June 15

1. Morning Worship at Gamneau United Church 11148 - 84 Ave 10:30 AM with special guest Marsha Stevens
2. Evening Worship at Lambda Christian Community Church 11148

- 84 Ave 7 PM with special guest Marsha Stevens

3. Northern Chaps presents Black Solstice & Mr. Edmonton Leather: Survivor's Brunch - The Garage Burger Bar - 11 am - 1 pm
4. Pride Parade - 2 PM
5. Beer Gardens, Business Fair, and Entertainment Stage - Oliver Arena 3 PM - 9 PM
6. Betty Ford Pride Kickoff Show - The Roost, Midnight

Monday June 16

1. Pride With Friends Karaoke - The Roost,
1. Pride Karaoke and Hiballs - Prism 10249 107 St.

Tuesday June 17

1. ISCW R Pride Wingo Bingo - Boots 8:00 PM
2. Hate Crimes/Police/ GLBT Community - Heritage Room, 1st Floor City Hall, 7:30 - 9:00
3. Pride Wings 15 cents - Prism 10249 107 St.
4. Pride Amateur Strip - The Roost

Wednesday June 18

1. ISCW R Pride Wingo Bingo - Boots 8:00 PM
2. Hate Crimes/Police/ GLBT Community - Heritage Room, 1st Floor City Hall, 7:30 - 9:00
3. Pride Wings 15 cents - Prism 10249 107 St.
4. Pride Amateur Strip - The Roost

Thursday June 19

1. Pride Music Sports - Boots, 9 PM

2. Jazz City featuring Rhonda Withnell - 9 PM

3. Sticky's Pride Charity Show (U of A Pediatric AIDS Unit) - The Roost

Friday June 20

1. ISCW R Gay Edmonton Pageant - Boots 9 PM
2. Open Mike Night - Prism 10249 107 St.
3. Euroblitz Upstairs at the Roost
4. Pride Patio BBQ - The Roost

Saturday June 21

1. EVM Concert - Provincial Museum
2. Pride Dance - Polish Hall 10960 104 St. 8 PM - 2 AM
3. Pride Awards - during the Pride Dance, 9 PM
4. Post Dance Party (free entry with dance ticket) - The Roost

Sunday June 22

1. Betty Ford Pride Week Recovery Show - The Roost Midnight
2. Diversity Conferences of Alberta Society: service of celebration, Carry The Flame, 10:30am at the Unitarian Church of Edmonton.
3. Pride Service of Worship at Lambda Christian Community Church 11148 - 84 Ave 7PM

The Roost's Pride Events

June 13-22

Playwright & Artist Joe Achtemichuk's Art Exhibit "Strange Fruit" 8pm-1am Upstairs Nightly except for Sat.

Fri. June 13

Black Solstice "Meet the Meat", upstairs ISCW R Flame Within Show downstairs Pride Pool Tournament, BBQ on the Patio & a Female Stripper

Sat. June 14

Pride After Party Get In Free with your Womospace & Black Solstice Tickets

Sun. June 15

Betty Ford Pride Kickoff Party, after the Parade

Mon. June 16

Cherry Riffin Present "Pride with Friends Karaoke 8-12am

Tues. June 17

Pride Date Nite, Date Board & Gay Sexual Trivia Game 10 contestants! Win Sexual Prizes! Also Audience Prizes

Wed. June 18

Pride Amateur Strip, Smirnoff Nite

Thurs. June 19

Jazz City Featuring Rhonda Withnell 8pm Returning June 27 with Anna Beaumont Live Pride: All Live Singers Downstairs

Fri. June 20

Euro Blitz Upstairs DJ Ottawak, New Music out of Europe Pride All Request Night Downstairs Female Stripper & Bar-BQ on the Patio

Sat. June 21

Pride Colors Party Get in Free with your Pride Dance Tickets Kickoff Party for Charlie's Angels Week

Sun. June 22

Betty Ford Pride Recovery Nite "Charlie's Angels Full Throttle Show" Win Charlie's Angels Prizes All Week



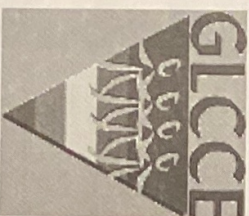
Private Members Club
10345-104 St.
426-3150

theroostniteclub.com

Volunteering at GLCCE

By Tamsin Bohner

I remember when I first emailed the Gay and Lesbian Community Centre to ask if they needed volunteers. After borrowing their library books, taking part in their groups, and using their website to keep up with local events, I decided it was time to give something back. When I arrived at the centre, the volunteer coordinator offered me a chair and a cup of tea and we talked about how I could use my interests and abilities to make a



difference in the community. A couple of years later, I've had the opportunity to volunteer with GLCCE in quite a few different ways, and it's been a great experience.

I've had the chance to meet and work with a wonderful and diverse group of people with the common

goal of making things better for our community. I've been able to help provide a safe, respectful space and a friendly voice on the phone for a wide variety of people of different ages and backgrounds who are gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender. And by helping people find information about resources, events, and issues that affect them, I've learned a lot about our community myself, and feel more a part of it than ever.

For anyone who has been thinking about volunteering at GLCCE, I highly recommend it. There are lots of ways you can get involved.

Hosting

A host is usually the first person someone talks to when phoning or dropping in to GLCCE. Hosts are there to make people feel welcome, to chat, and to provide information about Edmonton-area gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender resources.

Whether they're just coming out, new to Edmonton, or long-time community members, people often drop in to find social opportunities or support, or just to chat in a relaxed atmosphere.

Peer Support

Peer support volunteers are there for people who want to talk through an issue that's affecting them. In order to become a peer supporter, volunteers attend a ten-week-long training session and an evaluation. If you'd like to sign up for the next training session, please contact us. In the meantime, hosting is a good way to get familiar with GLCCE.

Special Events

Helping at special events is a great way to get out and meet people. From staffing an information booth to helping plan a fundraiser, there are always opportunities to get involved with GLCCE events and help spread the word about our centre. Special events are a great

way to help out if you can't or don't want to commit to a regular shift. If you like to volunteer in a social atmosphere – or if you like to plan and organize – we'd love to hear from you.

GLCCE Board and Committees

Our 2003 board is already busy working on our programming and services for this year. We'll be recruiting new board members again in the new year, but meanwhile you're welcome to attend a GLCCE board meeting or volunteer to help on one of our committees.

If any of these opportunities match your talents and interests, why not become a GLCCE volunteer? We'd love to have you join us!

Gay and Lesbian Community Centre of Edmonton



Providing Resources, Referrals, and Support about Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Issues

#45, 9912 - 106 Street
(780) 488-3234
glccec@interbaun.com
www.edmnc.net/glcce

Office Hours:
Monday - Friday 1:30 to 5:30 PM.

Drop-in Hours:
Monday - Friday 7:00 to 10:00 PM.



Activists Ignite

Gay Men's Health Movement at Haight Summit

This was the third national summit of its kind over the past five years and brought over 300 participants from all over the country and world, including countries such as New Zealand, Canada, England, Ireland, and Switzerland. The summit's boldly stated mission to "build a multi-cultural multi-issue health movement for gay men's health" drew a broad range of participants including activists, medical providers, community advocates, and human service providers.

"We are really excited to see the exciting work taking place on gay men's health around the nation and around the world."

said summit organizer Eric Rofes of San Francisco. "Cutting-edge work with men of color, start-up gay men's health projects in Tucson, San Francisco, and Geneva, Switzerland, and the increasing attention to aging and ageism, really made this an exciting summit to me!"

Throughout the summit, over 150 workshop sessions and plenaries covered the most diverse collection of topics in the summit's history. Amongst this wide range of topics some key issues, including substance use, mental health, HIV/AIDS, domestic violence, and prostate cancer, were identified and received special focus.

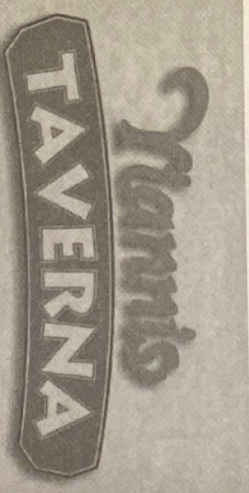
One such focus included a programming track, and funding to provide specific scholarships for participation, devoted to the summit's first ever "Men of Color Institute." This institute, sponsored in large part by the Ford

Foundation, addressed some of the unique needs in populations of color and in discussions including queer titles donated by Frameline, San Francisco's film festival.

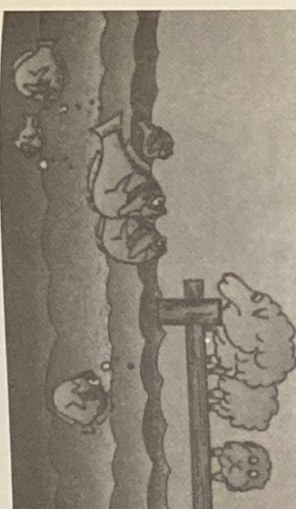
Audience response to the summit was overwhelmingly positive as they joined in a process that both energized and educated. As the week wrapped up, participants were charged with bringing the energy and message of the summit back to their communities and with organizations and with creating similar summits at the state and regional level nationwide. Additionally, discussions were already underway for the next in what will likely be many follow up national summits, tentatively scheduled to occur in 2005.

Further enhancing the summit experience were a number of activities to provide a social component for participants, including receptions, an exciting pool party, and collaborations with local

www.gmhms2003.org



10444 - 82 Avenue
433-6768



Charlie's Angels Week
June 21-27

Win Great Angel's Prizes

Every Night!

Private Members Club
10345-104 St. / 426-3150
www.theroostriteclub.com



Recognized Community Builders

Alcoholics Anonymous

AA is a fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism. The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. Call 424-5900 for times and places of Gay and Lesbian meetings.

The B.E.A.R.S. of Edmonton

A group for hairy men and their admirers meet the first and third Saturday of each month. Write us at #47, 10024-82nd Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T6E 1Z3.

Dignity Edmonton

This Edmonton chapter is a support community for gay and lesbian Catholics and friends. Contact Bernard at 451-1794 or Joseph at 481-4218

Edmonton Prime Timers

We are a chapter of Prime Timers Worldwide, an international social organization for mature gay and bisexual men and their younger friends over 21. Our activities

include: theatre nights, video nights, pub nights, Sunday brunches, and dining out. We meet the second Sunday of every month (except July and August) at 3:00 PM at the Unitarian Church of Edmonton (12530 110 Ave.) for a social period, a guest speaker, and an optional supper at a restaurant. For more information, contact Peter at 426-7019, or better yet...join us at our monthly meeting.

Edmonton Rainbow Business Association (ERBA)

Gay men and Lesbians in business and our non-gay friends. Join us...share your business knowledge, learn more, make new friends, network ... in positive, proud space where being yourself is the norm. Call Bill Faulkner for more information at 422-6207. Membership \$25.00/yr.

Edmonton Vocal Minority

Women and men of all sexual orientations dedicated to sharing and preserving the cultural heritage of the queer community. Everyone is welcome to join this mixed voice choir as either a singer or a support member. Come and sing your pride! For information: Telephone: 20 Times 10 Magazine, June 2003

(780) 479-2038, E-mail: cym@fibreedmonton.ab.ca, on the web at: <http://www.planet.com.net/~locute/cym/>, or write to PO Box 12091, Main Post Office Edmonton, AB T5J 3L2.

Gay & Lesbian Centre

Providing Resources, Referrals and Support to all members of the general public regarding Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Issues. Suite 45, 9912 - 106 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, (780) 488-3234.

WebPages with more information at <http://edmc.net/glice/>

HIV Edmonton

HIV Edmonton works cooperatively with all those organizations in Alberta and across the country who are working to help limit the spread of HIV infection. HIV Edmonton utilizes a best practices Harm Reduction approach in Health Promotion, Advocacy and Support, as well as, maintaining an extensive Resource Centre for use by health practitioners, health promoters, community organizations and those infected and affected by HIV. For more information on the activities of HIV Edmonton, please call

(780) 488-5742 or contact us by email at mail@hivedmonton.com. Visit our Website at HIV Edmonton <http://www.hivedmonton.com/>

Illusions Social Club

A social club for Cross-dressers, Transsexuals and their supporters. We hold two socials each month, one on the second Thursday and one on the third Saturday. For more information, write to Illusions Social Club, Box 356, Main Post Office, Edmonton, AB, T5J 2J6. Phone: 424-2685 to talk to someone person to person.

Imperial Sovereign Court of the Wild Rose

The mission of the Court is to raise funds for charities and other organizations, which provide direct services to gay and lesbian individuals. Meetings of the Society are held at 8 PM on the last Wednesday of the month at the Garage. Our e-mail is: wildrosecourt@yahoo.com. Visit our Website is at: www.geocities.com/wildrosecourt/

ICARE Interfaith Centre for AIDS/HIV

Resources & Education

Formerly Interfaith Association on AIDS, the purpose of ICARE is to enhance the well-being of people affected by HIV by offering resources and opportunities for education to service providers and communities. You can contact us at 780-448-1768 or by e-mail at icare@canet.com

Lambda Christian Community Church

We are a non-denominational Christian church providing a safe and healing space for Edmonton's gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered Christians and their friends. 11148-84 Avenue (Gameau United Place) Edmonton, T6G 0V8. Call 474-0753. Weekly Sunday service at 7 p.m. e-mail at lambdachurch@shaw.ca

Living Positive

Emotional, spiritual and psychological support is available through Living Positive to all those affected by HIV infection. We offer strong, loving, confidential support. We also meet weekly and share our mutual experiences. Living Positive is entirely directed by and for people who share a common diagnosis of

HIV+. Peer counselling, hospital visits and a speakers bureau are also available through our society. Phone 488-5768 or e-mail: lvepos@telusplanet.net.

Lutherans Concerned: Edmonton

We are a spiritual community for lesbian, gay, bisexual and straight people. Lutherans Concerned gathers monthly for worship, sharing, and friendship. We offer individual support and a safe space for our own spiritual questions. Call 426-0905, or write P.O. Box 11095, Edmonton, AB, T5J 3K4 e-mail: lylenliang@powersurf.com

Making Waves Swim Club (MWSC)

Open to all who are interested in lane swimming in a Masters club, we provide coaching to all levels of swimmers - those wishing to learn, those wishing to improve stroke technique and those wishing to train competitively. Drop in opportunity gives you flexibility to match your schedule. We swim at Bonnie Doon Leisure Centre, 8648 - 81 Street, Edmonton from September to June. Our members enjoy numerous social events arranged by the club. Please feel free to contact us to find out more information: Contact us at: 1.

WebPages: http://www.geocities.com/makingwaves_edm/home.htm, 2. E-mail: makingwaves_edm@yahoo.com 3. Phone: Warren 780-920-2847, 4. Attend a practice - your first swim is free!

Northern Chaps

Edmonton's Leather - Fetish club for Gay, Lesbian, and straight men and women was established sixteen years ago. We strive to educate the rest of the community through workshops, staged demonstrations and events in order to heighten awareness. Northern Chaps meets the 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month. E-mail us at:

Northern Titans

We bowl every year from September till April, and you do not have to belong to a team to join - just show up. We have bowlers whose skills range from beginner to average - and we will give the new people pointers to improve their skills. The cost is \$15 (students \$10) for three games of bowling. We have a lot of fun socializing during bowling and afterwards most of us go out for supper. It is an excellent way to get to know people. Northern Titans bowls at Gateway Rec. Centre, 100 3414 Gateway Blvd

Edmonton. For more information call Peter at 483-1075 - Or email at northern_titans@yahoo.com

OUTreach

OUTreach is a university-based organization for gays, lesbians and bisexuals interested in an academic atmosphere. Meetings are held every Tuesday at 5:00 p.m. at the Second Cup on campus. Topics vary from week to week. Additional information is available by e-mail: oureach@ualberta.ca. They also have a WebPages at OUTreach U of A <http://www.ualberta.ca/~oureach>

Youth Understanding Youth

We meet every Saturday from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Gay and Lesbian Centre of Edmonton, Suite 103, 10612-124 Street. A social support group for anyone under the age of 25 years. For more information, or to give your input, e-mail: yuyedm@hotmail.com. Our WebPages are at Youth Understanding Youth <http://www.virtue.nu/yuy/>

Visions - Unitarian Church of Edmonton

We are an open, liberal religious community that value diversity and celebrate our Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and

Transgendered members. With us, you are encouraged with open mind and heart to form your own set of personal beliefs. Sunday services at 9:30am and 11:15am. 12530 - 110 Avenue Ph. 454-8073. For more information, call Mike at 482-6582.

Womonspace

We are a social and recreational society for lesbians in Edmonton. We hold monthly dances and other activities. Look for our monthly newsletter around town, or phone 482-1794. Visit our WebPages at <http://www.gaycanada.com/womonspace/>

Regional Organizations

Grande Prairie

Gay and Lesbian Community, Box 1492, Grande Prairie, AB T8V 4Z3. E-mail: gpgayorg@hotmail.com

Out North

Box 2827, Yellowknife, NT, X1A 2R2, Phone line: 867-669-7279. WebPages: <http://www.yellowknife.com/piatran/outnorth.htm> E-mail: out_north99@hotmail.com

Someone You Know and Love Is Gay

Post 911

The Cost of Doing Business

911, the day the world changed! That's the day that the consequences for businesses and our lives changed forever... All you have to do is look at what is happening with the airlines. They are face job losses & bankruptcies. This is no different than any other business, including the gay community. 911 was the start, now factor in the US Nine Club fires, the gulf war & the terrorism against nite club around the world. All of this has impacted the cost of liability insurance.

Rates across the city are now going up by up to 400%. Now I ask you this, How do you run a bar or restaurant with this kind of increase? You can't!

Let's sit and look at what the costs are for running a nite club like the Roost. First, you start with liquor prices. They have been going up on a weekly basis, either for taxes, increased production costs or added fees to cover gasoline prices. Now you add in natural gas which has increased by over 100% & the soon to be increases in utilities, which is expected to be around a 60% increase. With expenses like these, it is getting harder & harder to make ends meet.

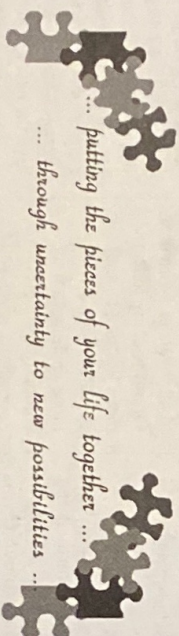
At the Roost, we have always prided ourselves at delivering a great service with reasonable pricing. The Roost, like every other business in the city, is faced with the same dilemma, how do we keep our doors open?

After 26 years of operation the Roost has reached a crossroads. Do we close our doors? Or do we raise prices?

After much thought and input from the community, we have chosen to adjust our pricing to meet our obligations to our suppliers and our own community effective July 1st. We have also implemented some other measures to assist in cost reduction. Further assisting us in meeting our goals, small price increases will be made on liquor products and Deli items. The door admittance and membership costs will also increase slightly. Platinum Cards will also now be made available for sale. A breakdown of the increases will be made available on the back of the "Roost Calendar" for the month of June, showing and implementation date of July 1st.

We apologize for these increases, but we assure you that they are being kept to a minimum. We look forward to your continued support and to providing the Gay Community with an excellent level of service.

Thank You
Dow Hicks



Liz Massiah, MSW, RSW

Clinical Social Worker
Ph 780 415 5434
Fax 780 415 5433
emassiah@interbaun.com

Massiah Counseling Services
#203, 10129 124St.
Edmonton, Ab, T5N2P5

Visa Master Card Interac

Boots

Pride Week

The blues room private club

FRI, JUNE 13

Boots Kick-off to Pride
\$2.00 Hi-balls 8-11PM
Free Pool

WED, JUNE 18

Pride Wingo Bingo
25 cent Wings
Small Jugs \$4.75 at 8PM

SAT, JUNE 14

Pride Pool Tournament
25 Cent Wings
Hi-balls start at \$1.00 at 8PM
Male Stripper at 11PM
Pride with ECUH

THU, JUNE 19

Pride Beer Bash
\$7.50 Large Jugs all day
Pride Music Sports

SUN, JUNE 15

Mr. Edmonton Leather Survivor's Brunch 11AM - 1PM
After-Parade Party
Happy Hour Prices all day
Pride with Bottoms Up

FRI, JUNE 20

The Edmonton Gay Pagent
\$2.00 Hi-balls 8PM - 11PM

MON, JUNE 16

Queer as Folk Shows at 8PM and 11PM
\$2.00 Hi-balls during each show

SAT, JUNE 21

Pride Dance Pre-Party
Pride Pool Tournament
25 Cent Wings
Hi-balls start at \$1.00 at 8PM
Male Stripper at 11PM

TUE, JUNE 17

Pride Mid-Week Event Party
Domestic Beer \$2.75

SUN, JUNE 22

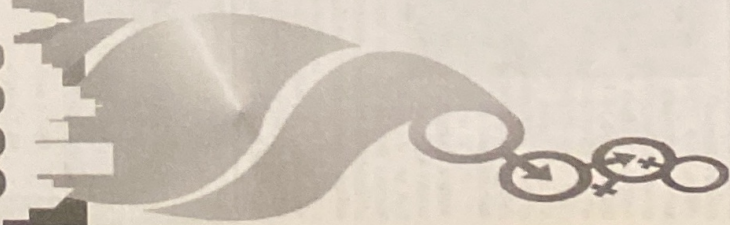
Post Pride Party - The Good, The Bad, and The Outrageous...
Happy Hour Prices all day

Happy Pride!

10242-106 St
423-5014

PRIDE EDMONTON
THE FLAME WITH

2003



Lambda Christian Community Church

up for who they are, to live honestly, and to worship God. That's certainly what she hopes to accomplish in Edmonton on the first weekend of Pride Week, when she will speak at a benefit dinner on Friday June 13 and perform at a concert on June 14 and be the special guest speaker and singer at two worship services on Sunday, June 15.



By Rev. Mickey Wilson
She Still Sings for Jesus...
And for Edmonton's G L B T Community
A talk with singer/songwriter Marsha Stevens

WHEN ASKED WHAT she does for a living, Marsha Stevens is straightforward and upbeat. "I write contemporary Christian music for the gay and lesbian community," she says. "What she doesn't say is equally true — she inspires people to stand

The song was powerful and found its way within mainline Christian churches around the world: millions of copies of the song were sold. Marsha Stevens grew up to attend Bible college, sang in a religious performing group, and continued to write popular songs for Christian audiences. Contemporary Christian singer Marsha Stevens got her musical start during an era that spawned terms like "Jesus freak" and "street Christian" in the late 1960s and '70s. She even opened for evangelists Billy Graham, Pat Robertson and Anita Bryant. But things were to change. In 1979, with a husband and two children, Stevens came to a realization: She was a lesbian.

"It was an awful time," she will tell you. "I lost my house, my husband, my car, my kids." In 1981, a California judge awarded custody of Stevens' daughter and son to her former husband, a fundamentalist Christian. "I was told that I could not mention homosexuality with my kids. And I couldn't live with someone to whom I wasn't married or who wasn't a blood relation. I took five years to hide out and try to make sense of things."

The reasoning worked and Stevens got involved with a singing group. She was soon performing at gay Christian churches and conferences across the country part-time. "It's scary," she laughs. "We really are everywhere!" Since Stevens' start in the MCC singing group, she rose again to national acclaim in the Christian community, as the only major out lesbian singer on the contemporary Christian music scene. The Encyclopedia of Contemporary Christian Music, sold in Bible bookstores across the country, honours Stevens as "the mother of contemporary Christian music."

But at the time, she took it all very hard. She wasn't convinced that being gay would fit into the movement from which she emerged. "I did a lot of going, 'This is so dumb — I either trust God or I don't. Strike me straight ... you're supposed to love me for who I am,'" she said, but gave up the idea of writing and performing music. She worked as a nurse and after five years of self-reflection

and bar hopping, Stevens found a home at the gay-friendly Metropolitan Community Church. "I came to myself and then I came into an MCC church ... I thought it would be a less smoky version of a bar," she said.

Several years later, the Rev. Troy D. Perry, the MCC's founder, noticed a familiar face in the congregation at MCC-Los Angeles. Talking with her later, Perry told Stevens she should be singing and bringing Jesus' word to gay and lesbian Christians. "I told him that I didn't do that anymore," she recalls today. "But then he said something to me that resonated. 'How do you know it wasn't for such a time as this that you came into the kingdom of God?'" (The line Perry used refers to the Biblical story of Esther, who marries into royalty only to discover that her husband wants to murder the Jews. Esther, who is secretly Jewish, is persuaded to come out and save her people.)



Wherever she is asked to perform, and no matter the size of the audience, she is glad to oblige. She recalls doing her complete concert for an audience in Morgantown, W.V., that was made

up of seven adults and four children. "My job is to spread the word," she says. "Size doesn't matter."

In Marsha Stevens' healing music ministries, since then, she's been enormously busy writing and performing (for queer and non-queer audiences), releasing cassette tapes, and a videotape of her show: *B A L M*, maintaining close contact with her now-grown children, and helping young ministers spread the gospel.

Now Stevens travels the country with her partner and their dogs to sing her songs. "I live in an RV on the road, on tour over 300 days a year," she said.

Wherever she is asked to perform, and no matter the size of the audience, she is glad to oblige. She recalls doing her complete concert for an audience in Morgantown, W.V., that was made

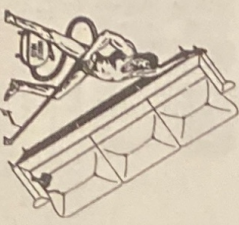
home. And you realize that these things are essential to the Lord's song. "I've always loved the work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.," says Stevens. "So many things he said resonate with truth in my spirit. The timelessness of his

cries for freedom and his insights into the nature of oppression give me strength for my own journey as a lesbian Christian. In Letters from a Birmingham Jail, he addresses the well-intentioned hell-payers who would tear at his resolve by saying, 'You have the right idea, but it's just not the right time. If you'd only be a little more patient, give people more time....'"

But Dr. King's answer was always the same, "Never let the oppressor choose the time for freedom."

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The Christian community she had once inspired turned its back on her. Her church asked her to take a "JESUS IS LORD" sign off her door. "People were awful," Stevens said. "People wrote me off. People sent me hate mail. Whole churches ripped out my songs and sent them to me." Copies of "For Those Tears I Died" were ripped out of hymnals after her coming-out. Stevens laughs about it now. "I turned over a ripped-out page to see what song was tossed out with mine," she says. "It was 'A Mighty Fortress Is Our God.' Martin Luther and me — not bad!"

But at the time, she took it all very hard. She wasn't convinced that being gay would fit into the movement from which she emerged. "I did a lot of going, 'This is so dumb — I either trust God or I don't. Strike me straight ... you're supposed to love me for who I am,'" she said, but gave up the idea of writing and performing music. She worked as a nurse and after five years of self-reflection

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It's Dark in Here!

A housewife takes a lover during the day, while her husband is at work.

Unbeknownst to her, her 9-year-old son was hiding in the closet. Her husband came home unexpectedly, so she hid her lover in the closet.

The boy now has company.

Boy: "Dark in here."

Man: "Yes it is."

Boy: "I have a baseball."

Man: "That's nice."

Boy: "Want to buy it?"

Man: "No, thanks."

Boy: "My dad's outside."

Man: "OK, how much?"

Boy: "\$250."

In the next few weeks, it happens again that the boy and the mom's lover are in the closet together.

Boy: "Dark in here."

Man: "Yes, it is."

Boy: "I have a baseball glove."

Man: "How much?"

Boy: "\$750."

Man: "Fine."

A few days later, the father says to the boy, "Grab your glove. Let's go outside and toss the baseball." The boy says, "I can't, I sold them." The father asks, "How much did you sell them for?"

The son says, "\$1,000."

The father says, "That's terrible to overcharge your friends like that. That is way more than those two things cost. I'm going to take you to church and make you confess." They go to church and the father alerts the priest, and makes the little boy sit in the confession booth and closes the door.

The boy says, "Dark in here."

The priest says, "Don't start that shit again!"

Cheddar Cheese

A Mexican family crosses over the border to the Land of Milk and Honey where the streets are paved with gold. But the husband can find no work. His family is hungry, so he takes a walk to a quiet place at the foot of a big hill, kneels at the base of a tree, and begins to pray: "Sweet Jesus, please show me a way to feed my family." Eyes closed, the Mexican does not see the black man coming over the top of the hill, who is stumbling wildly with a broken grocery sack. When the Mexican man opens his eyes, a large wheel of cheddar cheese rolls down the hill and lands at his feet! "Oh, thank you Jesus, thank you!" he cries, grabs the cheese, and runs straight home, while the Black man yells at him. Upon returning home, he gives the cheese to his wife and instructs her to make some nachos. "But wouldn't you rather have cheese enchiladas and burritos and other things" she inquires? "No," the husband says, "Jesus sent this to me with a message as I ran home, I kept hearing Him yelling, 'THAT'S NACHO CHEESE!'"

Swift Thinking

The weather was very hot and this man wanted desperately to take a dive in a nearby lake. He didn't bring his swimming outfit, but who cared? He was all alone. So he undressed and got into the water. After some delightful minutes of cool swimming, a pair of old ladies walked onto the shore in his direction. He panicked, got out of the water and grabbed a bucket

lying in the sand nearby. He held the bucket in front of his private area and sighed with relief. The ladies got nearby and looked at him. He felt awkward and wanted to move. Then one of the ladies said: "You know, I have a special gift. I can read minds." "Impossible," said the embarrassed man, "You really know what I think?" "Yes," the lady replied, "Right now, I bet you think that the bucket you're holding has a bottom."

Good Dog

A man wanted an attack dog to protect his business, so he visited a kennel that specialized in attack dogs. The man explained to the biggest, meanest, most vicious dog in the kennel, and the owner offered to take the man on a tour of the premises. After they had been walking for a few minutes, they came upon a large dog. He was snarling loudly and biting and clawing at the cage. "He looks like he'd be a pretty good attack dog," said the buyer. "Well, he's not bad," replied the owner, "but I have something better in mind for you." They continued walking around the premises, and after a while they found an even larger, meaner dog than the first. He snarled at the two men and tried to bite them through the wire on his cage. "Ah," said the buyer, "This must be the dog you were referring to earlier." "Well, no," said the owner, "I have something better in mind for you." The men continued their tour. Eventually, they came upon a fairly large dog that was lying quietly on his side, licking his ass. He did not seem to

notice as the men approached. "This is the dog I had in mind for you," said the owner. The buyer was flabbergasted. "You're joking!" he exclaimed. "This dog seems quite tame; he doesn't act at all like an attack dog at all. Hell, he's just lying there, licking his ass!" "I know, I know," said the owner. "But you see, he just ate a lawyer, and he's trying to get the taste out of his mouth."

US Post

George Bush wants a postage stamp issued with his picture on it. So, he instructs his staff,

stressing that it should be of high International quality. The stamps are created, printed, and released. Bush is very pleased. But within a few days of release of the stamp, he begins hearing complaints that the stamp is not sticking, and he became infuriated. He calls the people responsible and orders them to investigate the matter. They check the matter out at several post offices, and they report the problem to Mr. Bush. The report states, "There is nothing wrong with the quality of the stamp. The problem is people are spitting on the wrong side."

Technicalities

Yasir Arafat is in his office, alone, when his bodyguards hear a loud explosion inside his office. Rushing in, they see him on the floor, face bloodied. They ask, "What happened, Mr. Chairman?" "A letter bomb," exclaimed the injured Arafat. "But a letter bomb would have wounded your hands, not your mouth," replied one of his experienced men. "I was sealing it," said Arafat.

Coincidences

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*Building a Pan-Canadian
Queer Agenda
May 16th to 19th 2003,
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**Robert Wm. Smith
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Our future, the light future, lies in our ability to quell the acrimonious rhetoric and disdain and to grab hold of our own health, education and social agenda. We can't rely on others to put the pieces in place for us and we can't rely on the funding bodies and policy setters to keep our interests at the forefront in their dispensation of monies and guidelines for service delivery in our community.

From May 16 to 19, several members of the Edmonton gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, two-spirit community had the good fortune to attend the EGALE Rainbow Visions Conference in Montreal. The purpose of the conference was to give an opportunity to community workers and agencies to come together to put forth a vision of health, education and social service provision within our communities and those offering services to our communities.

populations. Approximately 450 persons attend from coast to coast to coast. Edmonton had at least 10 people in attendance, four of whom presented workshops and project summaries.

There were 95 interlinking workshops offered covering everything from legal and political rights, youth, relationships, parenting, sex and censorship, barbacking, aging, gender, two-spirit issues, religion and faith, hate crimes and homophobia, building community capacity, international outreach, and intersections of the diverse groups in our communities.

Some sessions were provocative and forward reaching and some reached back into our anxieties and the history of discrimination, intolerance and fear.

The delegates were abuzz the entire weekend with ongoing conversation about some of the networking opportunities that presented themselves. There was a commitment to

create a national network of community centers and organizations with the goal of using the expertise and best practices of the larger centers to assist in the ongoing development goals of the smaller urban centers. A network would assist those areas still without community organizations in putting together the framework for successful service delivery in their communities.

There was a commitment to create an education network under the umbrella of EGALE called The Egale LGBT Education Network. This initiative was brought forward by three teachers who felt that a concentrated national focus on education would bring about much needed change in the way LGBT students of all ages get information on their lives and in lessening the impact of homophobia and

heterosexism on their lives. They have already begun the work and emails are flying. There was another commitment to form an

organization to focus on our hidden seniors. Where are our seniors? It is a question we have been asking in Edmonton for some time. It is noted that the majority of LGBT seniors who don't have support systems in place in their aging years, end up in mainstream seniors residences living out their final years in the closet.

There was a rant style workshop entitled "Class, History and the Future of Queer Movements", full of fire and brimstone with the kind of leftist, socialist-based energy more often found in trade union meetings. One of the focuses here was on the equal rights movement, the class structure it supports and the equation between equality and maintaining the "bourgeois" status quo. The move toward marriage, as an example, will have direct benefit to only a small portion of our communities, lead to middle class stability and in some people's mind, produce in the LGBT communities an "acceptable" mirror image of

the heterosexual reality. As one delegate put it, "I didn't spend 32 years as an activist in the LGBT community so that I could become just like them" (referring to the heterosexual community).

And, there was a discussion facilitated by the Canadian AIDS Society on "Barbacking". Oddly enough, the whole concept is not as cut and dry as it might seem given that the numbers of new HIV infections continue to fluctuate. We didn't reach any consensus on how we deal with the notion of barbacking, but in the overall, there was a feeling that we cannot any longer support the tired philosophy of a condom every time. This reflects the new approaches being taken in HIV prevention education that returns some of the power to the individual and

some of the meaning back to sexuality. Dicey, yes, fool-hearty, no. Condom fatigue is real and there is a need to help men assess their own risk levels and make decisions based on that assessment. Top down lecturing on condom use has never worked in the past, does not work now and will not work in the future.

As with every conference of this type, one couldn't possible attend everything and often found at the end of the day that there was so much that was missed and may have been of more interest and relevance to one's specific goals and reasons for being there in the first place. That said, none of the time was wasted. An attempt will be made to have a full day "skills-building" presentation by the Edmonton delegates as an

information session for the LGBT community. To quote a colleague: "Attending the Rainbow Visions Conference was a most unique and refreshing experience. It was wonderful to attend a truly Canadian event which showcased the incredible social justice work happening in every part of Canada. The message, which resonated most, clearly throughout the sessions, was the importance of developing community partnerships among the queer communities and other organizations which respect and support cultural and sexual diversity. An equally important message was the need to combat vigorously the homophobia and heterosexism, which is so heavily entrenched in our educational systems. The lively discussions during the

conference provoked the participants to think critically about the intersectionality of a variety of issues. Certainly the Pan Canadian networking which occurred during the weekend will lead to renewed enthusiasm and strength in combating the challenges experienced by the GLBT communities and also in celebrating their successes. I applaud the staff, board members and volunteers of Egale Canada for their great success in organizing the Rainbow Visions Conference. It was truly exceptional. I encourage all Canadians who firmly believe in a fair and just society to support the efforts of Egale Canada."

Lyle Watling, educator, social activist, and HIV Edmonton Board Member

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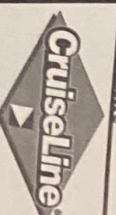
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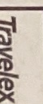
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Gay Pride Czech Republic

The Czech Republic becomes a member of the European Union in 2004. In 2003, it will become part of the international Gay and Lesbian Community. Underway are plans to celebrate the Republic's first annual Czech Gay Pride.

The events planned are for a weekend of debauchery, decadence and hedonism in Bohemian style. There will be a majestic boat ride with

entertainment on July 26. The premier party event scheduled on Saturday, July 27 is the official 'Crystal Ball'. This summer weekend will be filled with a celebration of Gay and Lesbian pride and all events are open to the public.

The Czech Mate Pride organization committee needs your assistance with volunteers and donations, so please contact lee@praguegaycity.com or visit <http://www.praguegaycity.com>

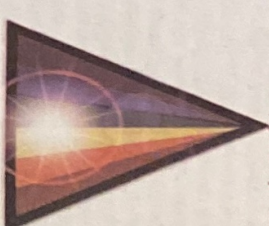
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Being Gay in Rural Alberta (And Staying)

By Jordan Bates

Picture this: There I was looking like complete crap wearing torn jeans and three days of stubble surviving on coffee and countless cigarettes (yeah their bad for you, so sue me) and since it was my day off I was searching the web, sending off e-mails to friends and generally slacking off my precious 24 hours of bliss. Then, I come under *Times/10's* website and discover the article written by Tara Witten titled "Being Gay in Rural Alberta". Well, after printing off the article and refilling my oversized mug

with liquid caffeine, I sat down and read the story of how Mark dealt with the problems surrounding a gay or lesbian youth who lives in a small town or village. It was excellently written describing how being openly gay in Bonnyville was "...repressing" and that "You've got to leave the town..."

Hmm? Although I agree that small villages, towns, hamlets etc. are very weird at times, and of course the stereotype that everybody's business is everybody's else's business seems to, at times, hit the nail right on the head. And anybody who has, or is living in a small town, that

discussion on such former taboo topics like sex, drugs, alcoholism, homosexuality (oh my god!) are generally viewed with intolerance and usually suffer the snide remark or so.

How the hell would I know of such things you might be thinking right now, or perhaps your thinking, "this guy obviously has no clue what goes on". Well think again honey, cause I actually live in a small town, er village. That's right, I've seen it all after living here in Onoway (think north-west of Edmonton), and I've dealt with some of the bullshit that can be thrown at queers in the country.

You would not believe what people get inside their heads when they find out that there are openly gay and lesbian teens and adults in their cozy "normal" community. You see, allow me to explain. When I came out of the closet, word spread faster than hell. By the end of math class the student population had heard. And since Onoway High School is deemed as "Runner City" where rumors are manipulated and warped so far from the

truth, that what started out as so-and-so slept with so-and-so, turns into a tale involving a bag of cocaine, a stolen bike and a mismatched bag of Oreos, the tale of a gay man in the vicinity scared the shit out of a lot of people. Funny thing though was that even before I came out, everyone basically knew I was a fag, but nevertheless panic ensued. My friends who were male (which was slim, simply 'cause all they thought about was trucks and sports... *yawn!) nearly shit their pants when they recalled times I visited their homes, was in their BEDROOM (oh no!) and hung out with them. The thoughts running through their heads must have been like "was he hitting on me?" "What was behind that smile and hi in English?"

As you pictured it, my male friends scattered like single men when the girl flashes the wedding band. But the women in the school took an entirely

different approach, taking to me like hyper teens with credit cards at a Gucci sale. Obviously a gay man was what they needed. Why you ask? I still don't know. Anyways, this ain't I'm going to be sickly sweet with images of an innocent queer flipping down the balls of the school singing off-key Broadway tunes (although... never mind), I did come face to face with "issues". Of course the issue is homophobia which Mark describes beautifully as "...attracted to the same sex and gay bash out of fear." (So THAT'S why he was staring at my ass... hum?) Anyhow, the crap came from both students and teachers who must have been constantly stuck on their "faggot" and countless other descriptive synonyms

the point of my confusing writing which probably has you reaching for the anti-psychotics. (Zoloft?)

My mother told me rather bluntly after I came out to her, "nobody's going to live your life for you, that's your job." Which truly struck a key as it came to me that if I continued to act like a floor mat to the homophobic people at school and around town, I was going to be treated like the floor mat, stomped on. My next thought was of course, HELL NO!

Trust me guys; sometimes your best defense is simply two things, bitchy looking clothes and a sharp tongue. The big mean homophobic joke who probably checks out his buddies in the change room will never know what hit him when the supposed limp-twisted terrified queer

tears him a new asshole with a barrage of comebacks, as you're dressed in clothes that clearly speak "Major Bitch". The look in their eyes when they realize not to screw with the boy who could easily fuck your brains out and call the boring last night's supper to his buddies.

All right, now to another part of my babbling. I direct this to those of you who are reading this and live in small towns that view gays with hatred and ignorance, don't run. That's right, you heard me, don't run! Fleeing to a safe haven, away from the rude stupidity of uneducated people isn't going to help. The only way we as men and women are going to obtain equality and true acceptance (not just tongue in cheek) is not by hiding in clustered societies away from the straight population. Of

course, there are risks, of course shit can happen, but getting past it, braving the front wave is the ONLY way we are going to show that we as individuals are not cowards and won't be pushed around and need a father figure and a couple pills (there comes the Zoloft again!) I decided quite some time ago that I happen to like this small place with all its strange things, to hell with the rest of the homophobes. Show weakness and they will pounce; show strength and wherever you live can be a great place. Not to mention, a cute boy in a pair of Wranglers is damn near perfect libido fodder.

There, I finally finished this! No doubt my babbling was hell to read as it doesn't seem to make sense even to me, but ah well, it's my life to live and do as I please so if you don't like it, suck it up princess!

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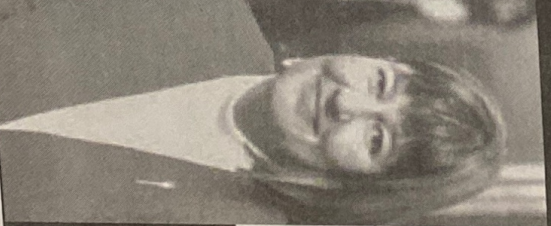
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Something Different

By Mike Schiller

I usually write poetry or essays, not songs, but sometimes the particular angle of thought is better expressed in a format other than that which I usually find myself most comfortable with. I wrote this with the idea that it could be a rock song, maybe punk or maybe Seattle-style grunge, though that's all up to the imagination. I wrote this to express my contempt for the type of values that lead to mass-tolerance of mass-atrocity, the values that are destroying society. When people talk about the terrible state of education, they blame either teachers or school funding, but rarely does anyone ever discuss the worst problem of all... most kids aren't being raised to think because their parents are obsessed with shallow, meaningless things. Kids are being raised to believe that pettiness and bawiness are a quality to aspire to. It's their idea of "normality". Society's twisted.

warped concept of normality is slowly destroying mankind. That's what this song is about.

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(a song written by Mike Schiller)

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Throw it all away

You bought the wrong furniture

Now my life's a disaster

Throw it all away

Throw it all away

My furniture's my self-esteem, not me, so you're to blame

Throw away my husband

Throw away my wife

Throw away relationships to craft the perfect life

Throw away my meaning

Throw away my soul

Throw away my fucking clue to purpose in this world

Throw it all away

Throw it all away

"Support" our troops with political silence

So they can die while we just "pray"

Throw it all away
Throw it all away
Fuck all those laid off workers and fuck the elderly

Throw away compassion
Throw away my heart
Throw away my humanity and fuck the world of art

"Fair and balanced" media
Now controls my mind
They speak "objective" truths which Some pay millions to define

Throw it all away
Throw it all away
Throw myself away
Throw away my spirit inside

It's my life, not your life
It's my life, not our life
Sinking into a nothingness
Oblivious to my strife
It's my life, not your life
It's my life, not our life
It's me, me, me, me, me.

When I find the perfect armchair
Everything will be okay

Until some shithead stains it and I throw the chair away
and When I lose my perfect armchair
My leather lover gone
I'll realize just how worthless I am
and hang myself before dawn

Throw it all away
Throw it all away
To I choose emptiness in my phony mess,
to me life and death are the same

Throw it all away
Throw it all away
To be is to see, but blindness is me
and changing is not my way

So I'll throw it away
I'll throw me away
I'll throw it away
Throw my mind away
I'll throw it away
Throw it all away
Throw my soul away
I'll throw it away
Throw it all away

(and now a word from our sponsor.)

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www.gayedmonton.com
Steam Room
Dry Sauna



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friendship & hanging out

Box 31172: I'm looking for a woman who can keep up with me. I'm looking for a woman who can keep up with me. I'm looking for a woman who can keep up with me.

relationships

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one night stands

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CruiseLine was conceived by the gay community for the gay community. We are not-for-profit, totally Canadian and our mission is to set love and desire free.

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Edmonton
Pride
2003
June 13-22



the flame within

CANADIAN LESBIAN
AND GAY ARCHIVES


ALL EVENTS during
Pride Week listed on the
web site at
www.prideedmonton.org

PRIDE WEEK Programs
will also be in the June
11 issue of Vue Weekly.

PRIDE PARADE - Sunday,
June 15, 2003, west on
Jasper Avenue from
111 Street, then north
on 118 Street to
Oliver Arena, 10335 -
119 Street. Parade starts
at 2pm.

PRIDE DANCE at 8pm on
Saturday, June 21, 2003
at the Polish Hall, 10960 -
104 Street. DJs Manny
Mullato (Sublime
Productions, Boots
resident); S2 (SQUARED),
(Sublime Production,
Envision); Astrotrip
(Sublime Productions);
Weena Luv (Roost). Pride
Awards at 9pm. Tickets
\$15 in advance. \$20 at
the door.

For information visit the
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VUEWEEKLY

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